

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**December 10, 2018**

**Call to Order:** The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**Introductions:** In attendance were the following DVCC members and designated representatives: Chief Judge Michael Newell (Chair, Family Court), Dana Harrington Conner, Esq. (Vice Chair, Widener Law School), Hon. William Carpenter, Jr. (Superior Court), Attorney General Matthew Denn (DOJ), Commissioner Perry Phelps (DOC), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Margaret Chou, MD (Christiana Care), Prof. Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Ariana Langford, Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Kimberly Chandler (DSHS).

Also in attendance were: Hon. Jennifer Ranji (Family Court), , Ellie Torres (Family Court), Det. Jeffrey Hill (Capitol Police), Ava Carcirieri (Family Court), Terica Jones (CJC), Brian Moore (DOE), Katie Sparacino (Christiana Care), Blanche Creech (People's Place), Mamie Charest (People's Place), Lori Sitler (Child Inc.), Gabrielle Coleman (Child Inc.), Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Mary Skaats (Probation & Parole), Dorothy Bonaparte (Design Thinking Academy), Morgan Penza (Design Thinking Academy), Zaiky HatENCHI (Brandywine H.S.), Alejandra HatENCHI, Desiree Segovla, Rudy Lara.

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Tracie Dixon-Stanley

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Chair and Vice Chair Nominations:**

Dana Harrington Conner moved to nominate Chief Judge Michael Newell as Chair and Secretary Robert Coupe as Vice Chair. A motion was made to approve nominations; motion was seconded. Per the DVCC statute, the election of Chair and Vice-Chair will take place during the first meeting of the calendar year, which has been scheduled for March 11, 2019.

**VAWA Implementation Committee Funding Recommendation:** Terica Jones (CJC) sought approval from the Council for the following grant program:

- **FY2016 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$943,114.00 for the FFY 2016 S.T.O.P VAWA Grant. The grant is in the final year under the "FFY2014-FFY2016 Three Year Implementation Plan. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends \$47,155.00 be awarded to Family Court of the State of Delaware for a Domestic Violence Coordinator to serve as the primary contact with other courts, advocates, prosecutors and law enforcement. The DV Coordinator will also assist with routine monitoring of compliance of respondents with Court orders. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. This will be the second year of funding for this project.  
The funding recommendations were approved with one abstention due to being the Chief Judge of Family Court.



**2018 Healthy Relationships Poster Contest:** Maureen Monagle (DVCC) introduced the first and second place winners, who were in attendance, of the “Promoting Respectful Relationships” poster contest open to all Delaware High School students. 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Brandywine H.S. 9<sup>th</sup> grade student – Zaiky HatENCHI); 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Design Thinking Academy 12<sup>th</sup> grade student – Dorothy Boneparte). The 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner was (Sussex Central H.S. 9<sup>th</sup> grade student – Joseph Rose, Jr.). Maureen also thanked the award sponsors for gift cards valued at \$350.00, \$250.00, and \$150.00. The sponsors were Christiana Care Health System and The Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in affiliation with the H.O.P.E. Foundation.

**Statewide Summary Report of Incidences of Dating Violence/Sexual Assault in Delaware Public Schools 2017-2018:**

Council members received a copy of the draft “2017-2018 Statewide Summary Report of Incidences of Dating Violence/Sexual Assault in Delaware Public Schools.” This report is pending final approval of the Department; it is not available for distribution.

Brian Moore (DOE) gave an overview of the report findings highlighting a few areas of concern:

- The number of reported Unlawful Sexual Contact incidents increased by 29 reports, doubling from the previous reporting period.
- Middle school harassment complaints increased 14% over previous years.
- New Castle County reported incidents accounted for more than 59% of all alleged sex related incidents and crimes, an increase over previous years.
- Inability to track newer forms of electronic harassment perpetrated through the use of mobile devices opposed to the more traditionally used laptop/desktop devices.

Recommendations include continued mandatory reporting training to district and charter school administrators in the proper investigation and reporting of sex related incidents on campus. And the provision of support and best practice resource materials to district and charter schools.

The Chair asked if the Council can receive a copy of the power point.

**DVCC Strategic Plan Update:**

Moe Monagle reported the Center for Court Innovation prepared a strategic plan summary report in narrative form. Council members were provided with a copy of the strategic plan.

The format of this document is clearly to (1) identify specific priorities and objectives and (2) provide an update on each of the priorities as of September 30, 2018. The Strategic Plan focus is from years 2018 – 2021.

**Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Update:**

Natasha Smith (DVCC) summarized the meeting with Dr. Neil Websdale, Director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFRI) held on November 26, 2018. A national team is being assembled in which a request was made for a member of the Delaware FIRT to participate in preliminary conversations for developing a uniform reporting system for information sharing. The NDVFRI will support travel costs associated with traveling to Flagstaff, AZ from June 24 – 26, 2019 to attend initial meeting. Natasha, as Staff to FIRT, has been the identified person to attend this meeting. If additional funding becomes available to the DVCC to send a second member from Delaware, DVCC staff will work with Chairs of FIRT to identify appropriate person. Moe indicated it may be helpful to send a DOJ’s FIRT designee. Some of the topics that this initial meeting will be touching on will focus on confidentiality and information sharing for the data collection.



The Council expressed no concerns with participation during this initial stage. Staff will report out on the national meeting during the next Quarterly meeting.

### **DVCC Committee Updates:**

- **Children & DV:** Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF) stated that the committee met on December 3, 2018. With the assistance of Judge Jennifer Ranji the committee's agenda was cleaned up to remove some items. The committee has finalized a bench card for court circulation and approval. A presentation was given by Rose Camps of Children and Families First on the services provided by the agency and how the agency works with Division of Family Services cases. Two items of focus are creating a DSCYF workgroup to review an online course offering for the divorced and separated parenting class and 2) examining guidelines for child custody evaluation.
- **Criminal Justice:** Natasha Smith (DVCC) stated the committee met on November 28, 2018. Natasha provided an update for the Law Enforcement Training Conference held on November 5, 2018. There were 166 in attendance with two nationally known speakers. Reactions to the conference were very well received and the lunch and learn topic was an overview of Probation and Parole. The High Risk Domestic Violence Coordinator position will be filled during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 and the Memorandum of Understanding has been finalized with the Capitol Police in Kent County.
- **Treatment:** Aimee String (DVCC) stated the committee met on October 17, 2018 and conducted its final review of the Batterers' Intervention Evaluation recommendations. The committee preliminarily discussed forming a workgroup to revise the Domestic Violence Batterers' Intervention standards. This will be the next project for the committee to work on. The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2019, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Middletown Police Department.
- **Immigration:** Laura Graham (CLASI) stated the committee met on December 6, 2018 and will be moving its meeting location to Community Legal Aid Society, Dover DE. The committee continues to update State practices as they affect limited English speaking and immigrant clients by promoting the infographics supplied to the courts. There are two new updated Federal policies of concern impacting clients:
  - Notice to Appear Policy* – if previously filed petitions for U visas were denied by immigration the client would not be referred to immigration court for deportation. However, with the update domestic violence based immigration petitions that are denied are immediately referred to immigration proceedings.
  - Public Charge Policy* – proposes to deem someone a public charge. The client or family member(s) cannot obtain their green card if they are dependent on public benefits.
- **Training:** Ellie Torres (Family Court) stated the committee met on December 5, 2018. The committee focused on two FIRT recommendations: 1) ongoing training for the bench and bar on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault and 2) training for the medical community.

### **Executive Director's Report and Announcements:**

- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) will be February 2019. The Proclamation request has been submitted to the Governor's office and will likely be held during the first week of February 2019.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) will be April 2019. The Proclamation date is yet to be set.
- In October 2018, The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFC) released a request for proposal with the Office of Violence Against Women for a Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP). The focus of FTAP is to help communities identify



challenges related to domestic violence and firearms. The DVCC submitted a statewide application incorporating findings from FIRT report, the DVCC Strategic Plan and the Safety Audit. The application was submitted focusing on six out of the 14 problem areas along with support letters from the DOJ, DELJIS, Wilmington Police Department, New Castle County Police Department, Georgetown Police Department, the Latin America Community Center, Peoples Place, DCADV, and Child Inc. Five to seven sites will be selected in March 2019.

- The Department of Health & Social Services, Division of State Service Centers released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Family Visitation Centers (FVC). The RFP includes language specifying the FVC locations not be housed in a state service center building. People's Place II, Inc. and Child, Inc. currently operate the Family Visitation Centers across the state. The Belvedere, Hudson, Georgetown, Milford and Dover family visitation centers would be impacted because they are co-located in state service centers. Both providers entered into a new five year contract with the Division that began on July 1, 2017. That contract was stated to run through June 30, 2022.

There are many concerns with this new RFP, one of which is the safety and security of the families using these centers. The Family Visitation Centers have not been satisfied with the services provided by Sunstates, the contracted provider of security for the State of Delaware. Moe will be following up with DHSS, Division of State Service Centers. Secretary Manning and Chief Judge Newell will also be involved in addressing the concerns.

**Public Comment:**

- Lori Sitler (Child, Inc.) mentioned she could provide documentation for Sunstates Security that could possibly support a termination of contract with the State Service Center.
- Lori Sitler (Child, Inc.) introduced a new Child, Inc. employee, Gabby Coleman, who will be working with the middle and high schools dealing with issues of teen dating violence, healthy relationships, and online safety. Ms. Coleman will conduct psycho educational groups coupled with individual counseling for pre-offenders. Referrals will be accepted through self, community agencies, or parents.
- Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV) announced 2019 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DCADV. Ms. Kenville-Moore provided copies of the DCADV 2019 calendar which included the coalition's Annual Report. Also, an opportunity to submit written comments on Title IX proposed regulations is available until January 28, 2019.

***Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 11, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library***

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tracie Dixon-Stanley

